REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/45/29)

UNITED NATIONS

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 44/120 of 15 December 1989, the General Assembly, after taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 1/ reaffirmed full support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace; reiterated and emphasized its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971; renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requested the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate; noted with satisfaction that, in the implementation of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, including the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference, as called for in the relevant resolutions recommended by the Committee and adopted by the General Assembly by consensus, considerable progress had been made by the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee in its meetings during the sessions of the Committee in 1989 and that the Chairman of the Working Group had submitted his report to the Ad Hoc Committee; urged the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify its discussions on substantive issues and principles, including those identified by the Chairman of the Working Group in his report dated 12 July 1989, with the aim of elaborating elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the Conference; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during the first half of 1990, the first with a duration of one week and the second with a duration of two weeks, for completion of the remaining preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo in 1991 in consultation with the host country; requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which were not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving the matter at the earliest possible date; also requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to consult the Secretary-General at the appropriate time on the establishment of a secretariat for the Conference; requested the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a full report on the implementation of the resolution; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function.

2. Pursuant to resolution 44/120, the Ad Hoc Committee held two sessions, a first session from 16 to 21 April (see A/AC.159/SR.364-367) and a second session from 2 to 13 July 1990 (A/AC.159/SR.368-383), at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 20 formal meetings as well as a number of informal meetings during 1990.

3. On 6 April 1990, the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed letters to the Secretary-General (A/45/213, A/45/215 and A/45/214, respectively) and informed him that their Governments, as of that date, were withdrawing from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. They also sent letters to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee informing him of their withdrawal

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/44/29).

from the Committee (A/AC.159/L.100, A/AC.159/L.99 and A/AC.159/L.101, respectively). The Secretary-General, in his note dated 21 May 1990, communicated to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean a note dated 19 May from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen regarding the reunification on 22 May 1990 into a single sovereign State called the "Republic of Yemen". Accordingly, the seat of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is no longer in the Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee is, therefore, now composed of the following 45 Member States:

Australia
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
German Democratic Republic
Germany, Federal Republic of
Greece
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritius
Mozambique
Netherlands
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Poland
Romania
Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Uganda
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 34/80 B of 11 December 1979, Sweden continued to attend the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee as an observer.

4. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Daya Perera (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Jill Courtney (Australia)
Mr. Wilhelm Grundmann (German Democratic Republic)
Mr. Isslamet Poernomo (Indonesia)
Mr. Pedro Comissario Afonso (Mozambique)

Rapporteur: Mr. Noël Rakotondramboa (Madagascar)

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

A. Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

5. The following agenda, for the year 1990 (A/AC.159/L.98), was adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 364th meeting, on 16 April 1990:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Organization of work.

5. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/120:

   (a) Work on the substantive and organizational issues related to the Conference on the Indian Ocean in accordance with paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 44/120;

   (b) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of resolution 44/120.

6. Other matters.

6. Furthermore, it was agreed that the following text concerning the organization of work adopted in earlier years would continue to apply in the course of the Ad Hoc Committee's work during 1990:

> "It has been decided that the Ad Hoc Committee, in recognition of its preparatory functions, will meet in formal and informal sessions, as it considers appropriate, to complete the organizational and substantive preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean. In doing so, adequate time will be given to both organizational and substantive issues, including the provisional agenda for the Conference, rules of procedure, participation, stages of the Conference, level of representation, documentation, consideration of appropriate arrangements for any international agreements that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and preparation of the draft final document of the Conference.
>
> "For the consideration of substantive issues, the Committee will take into account, inter alia, the political and security climate in the region and characteristics of the zone as given in documents placed before the Committee or discussed during the session. The Committee will also give consideration to all other documents before it.
>
> "It has been decided further that the open-ended Working Group will continue to meet during the scheduled sessions of the Committee with a mandate to identify, expand and facilitate agreement on substantive issues relating to the establishment of a zone of peace with a view to, inter alia, recommending the Ad Hoc Committee elements that might be taken into consideration during

the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. Meetings of the Committee and the open-ended Working Group will not take place concurrently."

B. Preparatory work for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean

7. During four formal meetings, from 16 to 20 April (364th-367th meetings), and one open-ended informal meeting of the Bureau, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the programme of work.

8. At its 367th meeting, on 20 April, the Ad Hoc Committee decided that the members of the Committee should submit to the Chairman of the Committee during the interim period their views on the programme of work.

9. On 3 July, replies from States members of the Ad Hoc Committee to the letter dated 10 May 1990 from the Chairman in pursuance of the decision taken by the Ad Hoc Committee at its 367th meeting were circulated as document A/AC.159/L.103.

10. During 16 formal meetings, from 2 to 13 July (368th-383rd meetings), the Committee undertook the consideration of item 5 of its agenda in accordance with the agreement concerning the organization of work.

11. Between its 370th and its 382nd meetings, from 5 to 13 July, the Committee considered a draft framework of the provisional agenda and draft provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean (A/AC.159/L.60, A/AC.159/L.61, A/AC.159/L.74 and A/AC.159/L.89).

12. At its 381st meeting, on 12 July, the Committee considered the report of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee, presented at its 356th meeting, on 12 July 1989 (A/AC.159/L.93, annex), and decided to continue its consideration of the report at future meetings by, inter alia, inviting further comments or views by member States to be addressed to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee.

13. At its 382nd meeting, on 13 July, the Committee further considered a draft framework of the provisional agenda for the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean (A/AC.159/L.60) and adopted a provisional agenda for the Conference (A/AC.159/L.106).

14. The provisional agenda for the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean reads as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference by the representative of Sri Lanka.

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.

3. Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. Election of the President.

5. Adoption of the agenda.

6. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

7. Credentials of the representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. Election of the other officers.

9. Organization of work.

10. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

11. General debate.

12. Review of the situation in the Indian Ocean area in the context of the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the achievement of its objectives.

13. Consideration of principal elements of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace as contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971 and as considered at the meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean of July 1979 as well as the subsequent meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean taking into account all its relevant work.

14. Modalities and programme of action for finalizing an international agreement and adoption of other practical measures for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

15. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

C. Introduction and adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session

15. At its 376th meeting, on 10 July, the Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee introduced the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.104).

16. At its 378th, 379th and 383rd meetings, on 11 and 13 July, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the draft report.

17. At its 382nd meeting, on 13 July, the Ad Hoc Committee considered a draft resolution (A/AC.159/L.105, annex) introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the States members of the Ad Hoc Committee that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and decided to annex it to the present report as a basis for further consideration.

III. CONCLUSION

18. At its 383rd meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its draft report (A/AC.159/L.104), as orally amended.

ANNEX

Draft resolution submitted by Sri Lanka on behalf of the States members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries*

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978, 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, 35/150 of 12 December 1980, 36/90 of 9 December 1981, 37/96 of 13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983, 39/149 of 17 December 1984, 40/153 of 16 December 1985, 41/87 of 4 December 1986, 42/43 of 30 November 1987, 43/79 of 7 December 1988, 44/120 of 15 December 1989 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, a/

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, which took place on 13 July 1979, during its preparatory session in July 1989, b/

Recalling further paragraph 22 of the document on international security and disarmament in the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, c/

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, as well as to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the States of the region,

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.159/L.105.

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

b/ A/AC.159/SR.357; see also Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/44/29), chap. II, sect. C.

c/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex, p. 24.

Convinced that agreement on such action should be facilitated by encouraging developments in international relations that could have beneficial effects on the region,

Also convinced that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived in the context of their confrontation, gives urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering that the creation of the zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka to host the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, in 1992,

Regretting the decision of some members to withdraw from the Ad Hoc Committee, and expressing the hope that they would reconsider their position,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; d/

2. Reaffirms full support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

3. Reiterates and emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971;

4. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requests the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate;

5. Notes with satisfaction that in the implementation of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, including the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference, as called for in the relevant resolutions recommended by the Committee and adopted by the General Assembly by consensus, significant progress has been made in the preparatory work, in particular in the preparation of the draft agenda and the draft rules of procedure of the Conference;

6. Also notes with satisfaction that the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee has made considerable progress in identifying substantive elements at the 1989 session of the Committee e/ and urges the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify its discussions on substantive issues and principles, with the aim of elaborating elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the Conference;

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d/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/45/29).

e/ A/AC.159/L.93, annex.

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during 1991, the first with a duration of one week and the second with a duration of two weeks, for completion of the remaining preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo in 1992 in consultation with the host country;

8. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date;

9. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory functions.

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